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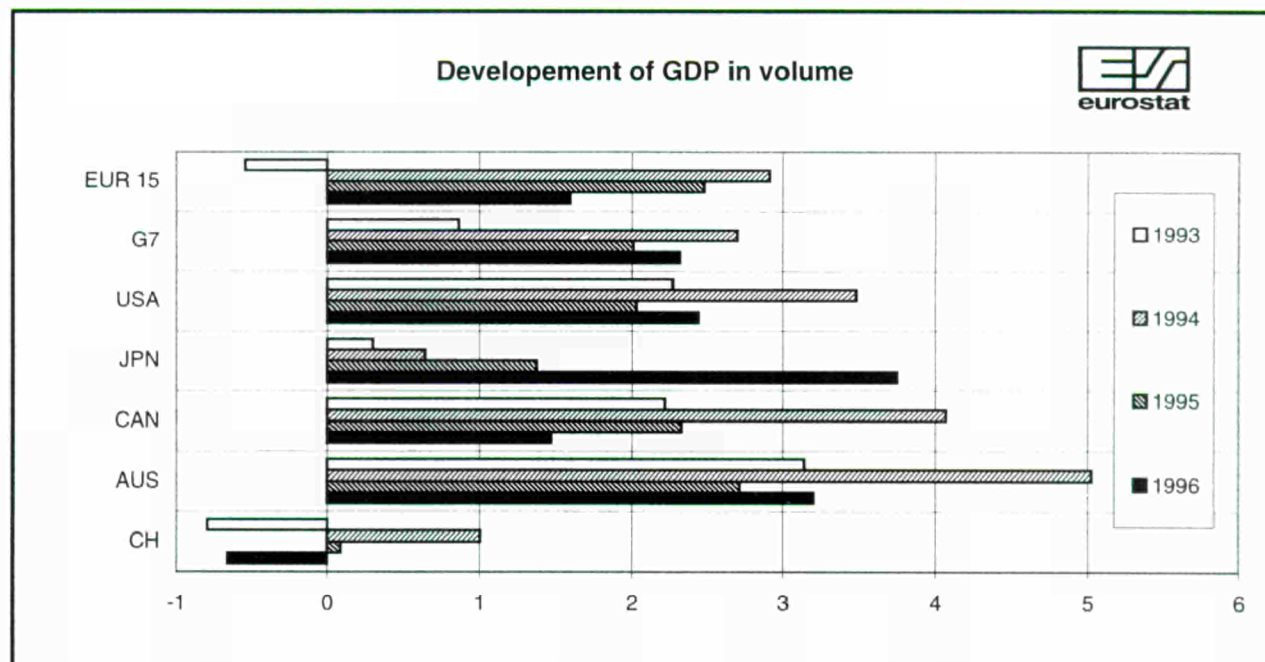
GDP in volume - First results for 1996

The first results for 1996 (*) GDP show a slowdown in the annual rate of economic growth within the European Union (+ 1.6%).

By comparison, the United States, Australia, and notably Japan, had accelerated GDP growth in 1996 (by 2.4%, 3.2% and 3.8% respectively). The rate of growth slowed in Canada (1.5%), while the Swiss economy actually contracted in 1996 (-0.7%).

Most Member States had reduced economic growth in 1996, the exceptions being Greece (2.4%), the Netherlands (2.6%) and Portugal (2.5%). Ireland recorded the highest rate of growth at 7.8%, and Italy the weakest at 0.8%.

In terms of GDP per head, all countries had growth in 1996 with the exception of Switzerland (which fell by -1.1%), but the rate of growth in GDP per head was generally lower than that of GDP itself.



* Methodological Note: Results presented in this report are based on the first estimates available from the Quarterly Accounts of several Member States, and trading partners, together with estimates of the Commission. Revisions may be made in line with Member States.

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1.1 EUROPEAN UNION AND MAIN ECONOMIC PARTNERS

EVOLUTION OF GDP - ANNUAL PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VOLUME

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
EUR 15*	0.96	-0.54	2.91	2.48	1.59
G7**	1.70	0.86	2.70	2.01	2.32
USA**	2.72	2.27	3.48	2.03	2.44
JPN**	1.03	0.30	0.64	1.37	3.75
CAN**	0.77	2.22	4.07	2.33	1.47
AUS*	2.85	3.14	5.02	2.71	3.20
CH**	-0.30	-0.79	1.00	0.09	-0.66
B*	1.69	-1.35	2.34	1.93	1.42
DK*	0.23	1.53	4.24	2.65	2.14
D**	2.20	-1.12	2.86	1.93	1.36
GR*	0.51	0.23	2.19	2.03	2.38
E**	0.69	-1.20	2.12	2.78	2.17
F**	1.16	-1.33	2.83	2.22	1.34
IRL*	4.61	3.66	7.33	10.73	7.84
I**	0.57	-1.16	2.13	2.97	0.77
L*	3.70	4.07	3.84	3.20	2.29
NL**	2.03	0.76	3.39	2.14	2.56
A*	2.04	0.36	3.05	1.83	1.00
P*	1.88	-1.05	0.71	1.86	2.51
FIN*	-3.55	-1.18	4.55	4.47	2.25
S**	-1.42	-2.22	3.34	3.57	1.08
UK**	-0.53	2.07	3.84	2.50	2.22

1.2 EUROPEAN UNION AND MAIN ECONOMIC PARTNERS

ANNUAL EVOLUTION OF GDP IN VOLUME PER HEAD

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
EUR 15*	0.48	-1.01	2.56	2.17	1.28
G7**	0.98	0.16	2.08	1.39	1.72
USA**	1.60	1.16	2.41	0.97	1.49
JPN**	0.72	0.02	0.41	1.14	3.39
CAN**	-0.36	1.09	3.04	1.11	0.26
AUS*	1.64	2.18	3.04	1.11	0.26
CH**	-1.31	-1.45	0.32	-0.54	-1.09
B*	1.24	-1.73	2.02	1.72	1.06
DK*	-0.08	1.16	3.92	2.20	1.71
D**	1.43	-1.84	2.56	1.63	1.04
GR*	-0.21	-0.32	1.74	1.76	1.87
E**	0.46	-1.40	1.96	2.62	1.97
F**	0.60	-1.81	2.39	1.79	0.89
IRL*	3.92	3.24	7.11	10.38	7.22
I**	0.39	-1.49	1.85	2.76	0.66
L*	2.28	2.61	2.38	1.71	1.27
NL**	1.26	0.05	2.78	1.64	2.05
A*	0.74	-0.60	2.55	1.61	0.59
P*	1.92	-1.19	0.49	1.71	2.31
FIN*	-4.09	-1.64	4.10	4.06	2.00
S**	-2.00	-2.79	2.61	3.03	0.68
UK**	-0.87	1.75	3.47	2.12	1.88

(*) Preliminary estimations made by the national statistic services.

(**) Final estimations made by the Commission services.

